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THE VOICE OF THE TURTLE

North American Journal of Numismatics

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A PUBLICATION OF THE ANCIENT COIN CLUB OF AMERICA

VOL. V, NO. 10 OCTOBER, 1966

In This Issue

From the Editor's Desk 291

The Numismatic Cabinet of the Museum of Alexandria in Egypt. Imperial Coins of Alexandria 293
By EV. BRECCIA

The Historical Implications of a Byzantine Coin Hoard from Dobruja: III 301
By JOEL L. MALTER

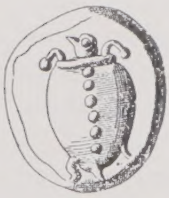
Book Reviews 309

ACCA Members Lecture at M.I.T. 317

New Additions to ACCA Library 317

The American Numismatic Society 318

The Numismatic Exchange 320



COVER COIN
ATHENIAN TETRADRACHM.
5TH CENTURY B.C.

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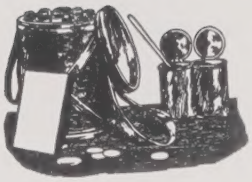
From the Editor's Desk



Your editor is not particularly impressed with anniversaries. He even let the two thousand, seven hundred and nineteenth anniversary of the traditional founding of the city of Rome pass unheralded last April. He cannot help but be aware, however, that this is the twenty-fourth editorial he has written, and that the appearance of this issue of the *Voice of the Turtle* brings to completion the second year of his stewardship.

Upon such occasions it is traditional to reflect upon the past and pompously pontificate about the future. To a gentle cynic, the past is already beyond our efforts to change and the future will be worked out only as the future draws nigh to the present. This cynic ought to ask, "What's in it for me?" With your kind indulgence, dear reader, your editor wishes to reflect briefly upon this text.

We who are interested in coins are often overwhelmed by our own fascination. That there are hundreds and potentially several thousand more readers of this magazine is a large number unless compared to some three billion people in the world, the great majority of whom don't care anything about coins except spending them.

In terms of potential economic usefulness, classical studies can't help but rank near the bottom. To the harsh judges who place the "$" upon the efforts of men, we must all be slightly balmy, unhinged, lost from reality.

Who could be balmier, more unhinged and further from reality than the fool who has devoted countless hours to this undertaking? The "$" reward is written in red ink — the people who care are so few. Indeed, "What is in it, for me or for any one else?"

Your editor happens to also be a humanist, or at least he so thinks of himself, whatever that term might mean. He feels that no experience is without value and that the individual man is the sum total of all his experiences. He feels that numismatics or classical studies may be as fruitful as advanced research in theoretical physics. The new ideas which point the way to the future of mankind are nurtured in a whole mind. Ideas are like pebbles dropped into still water — the waves set up expand to a theoretical infinity and no man

can measure their impact in some far off place or time.

No receptive man who encounters a new idea is ever the same. His mind is prodded, his horizon stretched. "What's in it for me?" is best answered in that it is a privilege, indeed a responsibility for one to be a part of that great process by which man moved from huddling in caves into what his life is in 1966—the process of thinking and studying and exchanging ideas.

The rewards of this task cannot be measured in any concrete terms nor can they be compared to anything visible in the physical world. Life is a process not of being, but ever of becoming. To participate in this process is a reward beyond price.

Your editor feels that numismatics is worthwhile for its own sake alone, that it needs no further justification and that anything devoted to the furtherance of numismatics is also worthwhile. That which is worthwhile must be done — and that is why the *Turtle* has now reached the end of its second full year of publication, and why, if the future permits, it shall go on. JOHN E. HARTMANN, *Editor*

A collection of ancient silver coins (including the Coins of Tarentum from the ex-Vlasto collection) was stolen in New York City in July of this year, along with 31 silver snuff boxes and vinaigrettes. A reward has been offered. Contact: Albert R. Lee & Co., Inc., 90 John Street, New York, N. Y. 10038.

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THE NUMISMATIC CABINET OF THE MUSEUM OF ALEXANDRIA IN EGYPT

by Ev. Breccia

Imperial Coins of Alexandria

This series is of the greatest importance, not only for the history of the Roman domination of Egypt, but also and above all for the history of the religious syncretism of that epoch, as well as for the topography of Alexandria. As a matter of fact the Reverse of these coins often gives a representation of some Alexandrian god or temple or monument.

ROOM 2. — Glass-case A: 1-64. Bronze. Coins struck under Octavianus Augustus (B.C. 30 — A.D. 14).

On the Obverse there is usually the head of Augustus, in profile to right. On the Reverse different symbols. Eagle standing on a thunder-bolt to left (1-3). Vases (7). Altars (16). Sheaf of wheat-ears (22-25) etc. One series presents on the Obverse the portrait of Livia, wife of the Emperor (48-64). — 65-96. Tiberius (A.D. 14-37). Nos. 65-80 in bronze; 81-96 in billon. — 97-101. Claudius (41-54 A.D.) and Antonia his mother; 102-121 Claudius; 122-190. Claudius and Messalina. The coins of which we give a reproduction are No. 108 (fig. 11), sheaf of wheat-ears, and No. 135 (fig.

Fig. 11

Fig. 12

12),—on the Obverse: head of Claudius with diadem, profile to the right, and on the Reverse: Caduceus between four ears of corn. — 93-416. Nero (A.D. 54-68) sometimes alone, sometimes with Agrippina, with Augustus, with Tiberius with Poppaea. — 417-463. Galba (A.D. 68-69). — 464-487. Otho (A.D. 69). — 488-495. Vitellius (A.D. 69). — 496-548. Vespasian (A.D. 69, Dec. 21-A.D. 79, June 23); 549-553. Vespasian and Titus. — 554-574. Ttius (A.D. 79-81).

Glass-case B: 575-683. Domitianus (A.D. 81-96).

Among the Reverses notice: No. 665. The Emperor in a quadriga, drawn by elephants; 668. The Emperor in a chariot drawn by centaurs; 669-672. Front view of Triumphal Arch; 675. The Pharos; 687 (fig. 13). Front view of Triumphal Arch, with three archways, the central one being higher than

Fig. 13

Fig. 14

the two others; on the top of the pediment, two Victories at the angles, and in the middle the Emperor in a quadriga. — 684-692. Nerva (A.D. 96-98). — 693-982. Trajan (A.D. 98-117). Notice among the Reverses: 697 (fig. 14). Facade of the Temple of Serapis in the Greek style, with triangular pediment; the capitals are Corinthian; in the middle, Serapis standing, resting on a long sceptre, his right hand on a stele; 750 (fig. 15). Temple of Isis (?). Facade of a temple in the Egyptian style; two large pylons connected by an architrave, under which the door opens; on the top of the architrave a goddess can be seen, facing, holding a long sceptre in her left hand; this temple was centainly in Alexandria. — 703-704. Nilus recling to right; 771. Serapis seated on a throne; 772. Serapis on the sacred ram; 780. Trophy; 785 (fig. 16). Triumphal Arch, with three archways surmounted by trophies; 799. The Emperor on a quadriga; 804-807, on a quadriga of elephants; 871. Serapis seated on a throne, his head surmounted by a modius, his right hand resting on the three-headed Cereberus; 890-891. Modius filled with ears of corn on a chariot drawn by winged serpents; 892. Modius on the top of a column, guarded by two winged serpents, confronting.

Fig. 15

Glass-case C: 990-1477, and glass-case D, up to No. 1602. Hadrian (A.D. 117-138).

The Reverses are very varied; 1025-1026. The Emperor on

Fig. 16

Fig. 18

a quadriga of elephants; 1051. Hippopotamus; 1059 et passim: Serpent; 1092-1095, see also 1379-1383, etc. Nilus half-reclining to the right, a cornucopia in his left hand, a papyrus reed in his right; 1141-1142, see also 1466-1467. Winged female sphinx drawing a wheel with one of its fore-paws (Nemesis); 1276. The Pharos; 1310-1324. Nilus half-reclining to the right, lifting a cornucopia in his left hand; 1340. Zeus, in profile to left, sitting on an eagle with outspread wings; 1363-1366 (fig. 17). The Emperor standing, in profile to left, is receiving ears of corn from the town of Alexandria, personified as a young woman, standing, wearing a short tunic, and on her head the elephant-skin: she is kissing the Emperor's hand; 1391-1393. Victories; 1405. The Emperor in a chariot drawn by serpents; 1407. The head of Serapis, in profile to right, on the back of an eagle with outspread wings, standing on a thunder-bolt, its feet wide apart, holding a feather in its left claw; 1409 (fig. 18). The Emperor, in profile to left, in front of Serapis, who stands to right, the left hand resting on a long sceptre, the right lifted up towards the Emperor: between them an altar; 1410. Isis suckling Harpocrates; 1415-1418. Athena, standing, in profile to left; 1420-1422. Alexandrian Isis wearing chiton and himation, standing, in profile

Fig. 17

to left, a cornucopia in her left hand, her right hand resting on an oar; 1450-1451 (fig. 19). Isis Pharia and the Pharos; 1596 (glass-case D). On the Obverse: Bust of Antinous on

Fig. 19

horse-back, in profile to right, holding a caduceus in his right hand (fig. 20).

GLASS-CASE D: 1603-1925. GLASS-CASE E: 1926-2166. Antoninus Pius (A.D. 138-161); 1639 (fig. 21). The Pharos; 1657 (fig. 22). Serapis seated on a throne three-quarters to left, the left hand holding a long sceptre, the right hand held

Fig. 20

over the head of Cerberus; 1723. Eusebeia in the middle of a tetrastyle temple; 1726. Hercules overthrowing the Nemean Lion; 1756. Temple of Hermanubis; 1757. Winged Victory, in profile to right, writing on a shield; 1760. Trophy; 1782-1795. The Zodiac; 1819 (fig. 23). The Emperor seated, helmet on head, leaning his elbow on his shield, his right hand

Fig. 21 (left)

Fig. 22 (right)

raised horizontally to hold a small Victory; 1846 (fig. 24). Serapis seated on a throne, his right hand resting on a three-headed Cerberus, in a temple; 1886. The goddess Moneta, a cornucopia in her left arm, a balance in her right hand; 1903 Temple of Serapis in the Greek style, triangular pediment: the

Fig. 23

god is represented seated on a throne; 1906 (fig. 25). Temple of Isis. with a rounded pediment: Isis is represented seated, in profile to right. suckling Harpocrates: 1981 (fig. 26). Eusebeia in the centre of a tetrastyle temple; 2003 (fig. 27) Tetrastyle temple. with the image of Eusebeia between the central columns: above, in the middle, flames: 2036 (fig. 28). Hexa-

Fig. 24 (left)

Fig. 25 (right)

style temple. with fairly high podium: acroteria. and. on the top, flames.

Glass-case E: 2167-2208. Marcus-Aurelius (Caesar A.D. 139-161): 2209 sq. Marcus-Aurelius (Emperor, 161-180 A.D.); 2180.

Temple of Serapis; 2202-2204. Hexastyle temple; 2326-27.

Fig. 26 (left)

Fig. 28 (right)

On the Obverse: Bust of the youthful Faustina, wife of Marcus Aurelius: on the Reverse: Head of Serapis above a sacred ram.

Glass-case F: This case encloses the coins struck at Alexandria under Lucius Verus. Commodus and Severus Alexander. 2479-2480. A very beautiful Reverse: Pharos and sailing-ship.

Fig. 27

In Glass-case K-L, the beginning of a collection of Roman Consular coins and coins of the Empire.

ROOM 4. In the Glass-case A-B. 2808-3985. is exhibited the continuation of the Nummi Augg. Alexandrini from Alexander-Severus to Numerianus Caesar (A.D. 283).

In Glass-case C. 3986-4283. from Numerianus Caesar to Domitianus Domitianus (A.D.) 297).

Nos. 4284-4397 comprise the coins of the Nomes (provinces or districts of Egypt). These coins were struck by the different provinces of Egypt under Hadrian. Trajan. and Antoninus.

ROOM 5. — Glass-case A.

Temporary exhibition of coins which do not enter into the two principal series: Athenian Tetradrachms. some of which have an inscription in relief added after being struck. and nearly all of which are marked with a stamp. (a square hole. a hole in the shape of a cone, or of a star). Some of them come from Memphis. some from Kom-el-Nakhla el-Baharieh (Lower Egypt). Some gold darics. Two gold medallions of Galerius Maximianus. 102 small Roman coins. silver. discovered at Benha (Athribis), gift of the "Direction Generale" of the Service of Antiquities: their dates extend from the Emperor Vespasian to the Emperor Albinus.

Glass-case B. Collection of Roman and Byzantine gold coins partly from a "find" made in Alexandria (Chatby) and partly from Benha (Athribis).

Glass-case C. Stock of a goldsmith and monetary officer. Discovered at Mit-Rahineh in 1860 by Mariette. and illustrated by Longperier in the *Revue Numismatique* (1861). T. 4. p. 407-428.

Here can be seen coins from different parts of Greece, pieces of silver of different weights ready to be reworked: some small silver idols (132. Bull Apis). Rings and remains of rings with images of the divinities engraved on them. Other analogous fragments from a "find" made at Samanhud.

GLASS-CASE D. Roman Coins struck at Alexandria for the service of the Empire under the Tetrarchy (A.D. 284-305).

GLASS-CASE E. Roman Coins struck at Alexandria for the service of the Empire by the successors of the Tetrachy (after A.D. 305).

Byzantine coins struck at Alexandria.

GLASS-CASE F. Lead coins.

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In addition to the author's very brief bibliography the editor has added the following listing of more recent works on the coins of Egypt.

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THE HISTORICAL IMPLICATIONS OF A BYZANTINE COIN HOARD FROM DOBRUJA: III

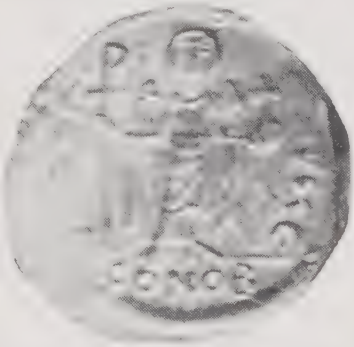
by Joel Malter

(Continued from September 1966, pp. 277-281).

13. Maurice Tiberius, another solidus (4.4 grams) of the same type as above. The last letter of the reverse legend is "E" instead of "Δ".

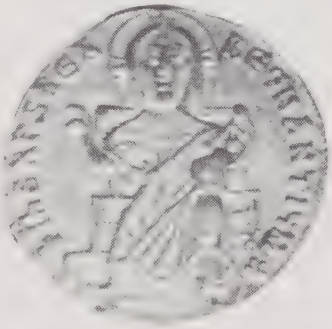
Wroth 6, p. 128

Of this common issue only these two pieces of Maurice Tiberius were in the hoard. Both show similar wear.



14. Basil I and Constantine, 869-879, solidus (4.45 grams)

obv. bASILIOSETCOnSTanT' A ugg'b'. Bust of Basil I. on left. bearded. facing: shorter bust of Constantine on right. beardless. facing. They both hold between them a patriarchal cross. Basil wears a crown with a cross and a robe of lozenge pattern; Constantine wears crown with cross, mantle and robe.



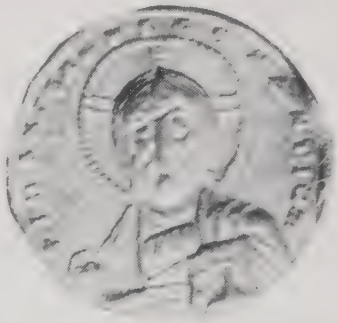
rev. +IhSXPSREX REgNAN TIuM*. Christ. bearded. seated facing on throne with dais. wears tunic, mantle and nimbus cruciger; right hand outstretched; in left hand, book of the Gospels.

Wroth 2, p. 436

Only a minimum of circulation wear on this coin.

15. Constantine VII and Romanus. 945-959. solidus (4.4 grams)

obv. COnStAnT' CE ROMAnAugg b 'R'. bust of Constantine on left, bearded, facing, in robe of lozenge pattern. On right, bust of Romanus, beardless, facing, wearing mantle and robe. They hold between them a patriarchal cross. Each wears a crown with a cross.



rev. +IhSXPSPEXPEgNANTIuM. bust of Christ, bearded, facing, wearing tunic and mantle and nimbus cruciger: right hand raised, left holds book of Gospels.

Wroth 60, p. 465

16. Constantine VII and Romanus, another solidus (4.4 grams)

The same as number 15. But whereas number 15 is in excellent condition with only a trace of circulation wear, this piece has a deep gash (test cut?) across the obverse. The pressure required for this mark caused excessive rubbing on the reverse.

17. Nicephorus II. Phocas. 963-969. nomisma (4.4 grams)

obv. +ΘE OTOC'b' HB'hl CHFdECP. on left, bust of the Virgin, facing, wearing nimbus, veil, mantle and tunic: on right, bust of Nicephorus II. bearded, facing, wearing crown with cross and robe with square pattern, within each square

a dot. They hold between them the patriarchal cross; on left of Virgin M, on right B.

rev. +IhSXPSREXRCgNANTIhM. bust of Christ, facing, nimbate, similar to numbers 15 and 16 above.

Wroth 3, p. 472

Except for having been pierced this scarce coin is in an excellent state of preservation.

18. Basil II and Constantine VIII. 976-1025. nomisma (4.3 grams)

obv. +bASIL' CCONSTANTINbR, bust of Basil on left, bearded and facing: on right bust of Constantine, beardless, facing. They hold between them a patriarchal cross.

rev. +IhSXISREXREGNANTIhM. bust of Christ, bearded, facing, wears tunic, mantle and nimbus with two pellets in each limb of nimbus.

Wroth 5, p. 485

19. Basil II and Constantine VIII. another nomisma (4.25 grams), the same type as above. Both specimens are in good condition with little apparent wear. Although no die linkage exists between these two coins, it is reasonable to assume that they were circulated during Basil's military activities in the Balkans, (Illustration appears on page 307.)

20. Romanus III, 1028-1034, nomisma (4.4 grams)

obv. CE BOH RWMANW. on left Romanus standing, facing, wearing crown with cross and long robes: on right, the Virgin standing, facing. She wears nimbus, veil, tunic and mantle, and with her right hand crowns the emperor; above right hand M ⊖

rev. +IhSXISREX RESNANTIhM. Christ bearded and nimbate, wearing tunic and mantle, seated on large throne. He holds book of Gospels which is decorated with five pellets on cover.

Wroth 1, p. 494

Except for piercing this is a well-preserved coin.

21. Constantine IX, 1024-1055, nomisma (4.15 grams thick flan)

obv. +CWNSTANThbASILE uSRM. bust of Constantine, bearded, facing, wearing crown and jewelled robe. He holds sceptre with trefoil top in right hand: in left hand he holds globus cruciger.

rev. +IhSXISREX RESNANTIhM. bust of Christ, bearded, facing, wearing tunic, mantle and nimbus: he holds book of

Gospels which is ornamented with many dots and one central pellet on cover.

Wroth 1, p. 499

This specimen shows wear on the high spots of the faces of Constantine and Christ.

22. Constantine IX, nomisma (4.4 grams, spread, scyphate flan)

obv. Same inscription as above. Constantine holds in left hand globus with a patriarchal cross; in his right hand a sceptre surmounted by a cross.

rev. Same inscription as number 21, similar type except for simpler decoration of book of Gospels.

Wroth 11, p. 501

Except for piercing this is a well-preserved specimen.

23. Michael VII, 1071-1078, electrum nomisma (4.4 grams) scyphate

obv. ⁺MIXAHAARACIAOΔ bust of Michael, bearded, facing, wearing robe and mantle, holding labarum in right hand, globus cruciger in left.

rev. IC XC, Christ, bearded, seated facing front on throne. Wearing tunic, mantle and nimbus, holding book of Gospels which is decorated by five pellets.

Wroth 1, p. 529

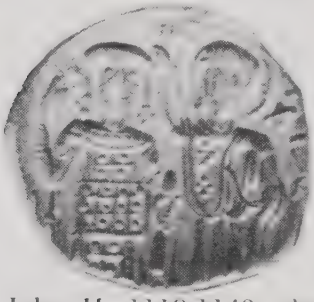
24. Nicephorus III, 1078-1081, electrum nomisma (4.4 grams) scyphate

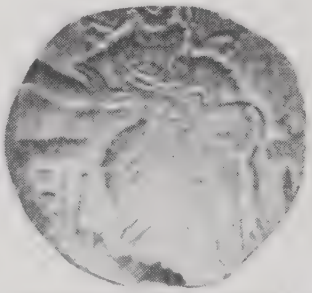
obv. ⁺NIKHΦΔECTWROJANIAT', Nicephorus, standing facing, wears crown with cross, jewelled robe and mantle; holds labarum with X on shaft in right hand, and globus cruciger in left.

rev. IC XC, Christ seated on throne, similar to above.

Wroth 7, p. 536

Except for the long flan crack and worn reverse die of the nomisma of Nicephorus III, illustrated above this specimen shows no circulation wear.





25. John II, 1118-1143, electrum nomisma (2.3 grams) scyphate

obv. Obscure legend. John standing on left, bearded, facing, crowned by the Virgin who stands on the right, facing,

above her hand: MP. John wears a jewelled robe and mantle; the Virgin a tunic and mantle.

rev. Christ seated on throne. similar to number 20 above.

Wroth 24, p. 558

This is a badly clipped piece. The reverse has a bit of solder on it indicating that the coin may have been mounted in jewelry at one time.

26. Andronicus II and Michael IX, 1295-1320, electrum nomisma (3.3 grams)

obv. Obscure legend. Three standing figures, Christ in center; on left Andronicus II, on right Michael IX. Christ blesses each with outstretched hand.

rev. View of Constantinople, in center the Virgin standing.

Wroth 21, p. 620 [35]

This, the last coin in the hoard, is in the poorest of condition. The piercing adds to the typically crude strike of this late period.

(to be continued)

Fig. 19

[35] Buccur Mitrea, "Notes et Information," *Dacia*, New Series. 1961, p. 593. Mitrea describes in note No. 54 a similar coin of Andronicus II found near Galita in the Dobruja.

SOME INEXPENSIVE LATE ROMAN EMPIRE BRONZE COINS

ARCADIUS (22 mm.) **R. GLORIA ROMANORUM.** Arcadius with standard and globe.

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Antiochia Mint: Fine $4; F/VG $3; VG $2
Constantinopolis Mint: F/VG $3; VG $2
Cyzicus Mint: F/VG $3; VG $2
Heraclea Mint: VG $2
Nicomedia Mint: Fine $4; F/VG $3; VG $2

GRATIAN (22 mm.) **R. REPARATIO REIPUB.** Gratian with kneeling female.

Antiochia Mint: VF $5; Fine $4
Constantinopolis Mint: F/VG $3; VG $2
Siscia Mint: Fine $4; VG/G $1.50
Roma Mint: VF/F $4.50; F/VG $3

THEODOSIUS (22 mm.) **R. GLORIA ROMANORUM.** Theodosius with standard & globe.

Antiochia Mint: F/VG $2.50; VG $2; VG/G $1.50
Constantinopolis Mint: F/VG $2.50; VG $2; VG/G $1.50; G $1
Cyzicus Mint: F/VG $2.50; F/G $2; VG $2; G/VG $1.50
Heraclea Mint: Fine $3; VG $2
Nicomedia Mint: VG $2; VG/G $1.50

THEODOSIUS I (22 mm.) **R. REPARATIO REIPUB.** Theodosius with kneeling female.

Antiochia Mint: VF/F $4.50; F/VG $3
Aquileia Mint: F/G $2
Roma Mint: VF/F $4.50; F/G $2
Siscia Mint: Fine $4; VG/G $1.50; G/VG $1.50

HONORIUS (22 mm.) **R. GLORIA ROMANORUM.** Honorius holding standard and globe.

Antiochia Mint: F/VG $3; F/G $2; VG $2
Constantinopolis Mint: F/VG $3; VG $2
Cyzicus Mint: Fine $4.50
Nicomedia Mint: VG $2

VALENTINIAN II (22 mm.) **R. REPARATIO REIPUB.** Valentinian with kneeling female.

Aquileia Mint: VG $2
Constantinopolis Mint: F/VG $3; F/G $2; VG $2
Roma Mint: VG $2; G $1
Siscia Mint: F/VG $3

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BOOK REVIEWS

Rawlings, G. B., ANCIENT, MEDIEVAL, MODERN COINS AND HOW TO KNOW THEM. Ammon Press, Chicago, 1966. $10.00. 360 pp plus 36 plates.

At Last! A concise, simple yet authoritative handbook of coinage down to 1900. This is written, not just for the collector of ancient coins, but for any general collector of any kind of coins who wishes to increase his knowledge on numismatics and to increase his appreciation of his own specialty in terms of the historical trends of coinage from its origins.

Miss Rawlings' book was written in that same era around the turn of the century when numismatic publications whether specialized, for the numismatist or generalized for the collector, were written with some authority and substance — in stark contrast to the ill conceived handbooks of our own day.

The book begins with the origins of coinage, covers the major Greek coins, proceeds then to the Roman coins in sequence from Republic to empire. It then treats the Byzantine and the medieval west European, with perhaps a greater emphasis on English coins. Miss Rawlings then moves into the category of modern world coins including United States issues. Throughout she attempts to maintain the artistic and economic continuity of coinage which links the earliest electrum issues to the latest coins of our own times. It should be an enticement for many of the more serious collectors who are disturbed with the limitations of their own specialities to explore further and perhaps even discover the fascination of the world of the ancients.

HOWARD OLSON

Florence, Dr. A., GEOGRAPHIC LEXICON OF GREEK COIN INSCRIPTIONS, Argonaut Inc., Chicago, 1966. 100 pp plus 4 maps. $5.00

The major problem facing potential collectors of Greek coins has been the fear of the alphabet. The VOICE OF THE TURTLE attempted in part to alleviate that problem with its publication of "Greek Numismatic Epigraphy" where the reader was introduced to the Greek alphabets, common Greek words which appear on coins, pronunciation and even a bit of noun cases.

The articles could not encompass what still remains as a great roadblock to easy handling of Greek coins, the resolution of city ethnics and legends into identifications of the nearly one thousand cities which minted coins. To move to an easy identification of Greek coins, the collector had to possess a startling knowledge of Greek town names and a geographical index, such as is so valuably included in Head's HISTORIA NUMORUM. Lacking this, attribution became a tedious and often impossible exercise for any person not having access to the great major catalogs of Greek coins.

Florence has been with us for some time. Few have been fortunate enough to have it, since it like many other valuable works has been out of print and extremely scarce. At the price, no tyro should longer put off his venture into the magnificent world of Greek coins.

The Lexicon is an alphabetic list of Greek ethnics and legends and through its use, the vast majority of Greek coins can be quickly identified as to their place of origin. That its value can never be superseded is indicated by the number of long time specialists in Greek coins who reach for their worn and well thumbed copies of Florence whenever they encounter a new specimen. JOHN E. HARTMANN

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MARK ANTONY. P. Sepullius Macer, c. 44 B.C. Head of Mark Antony veiled. Rv. Horseman with two horses. S.1077. FDC **$200.00**

——M. Aemilius Lepidus, 43 B.C. Lituus, capis & raven. Rv. Apex, axe, sprinkler & simpulum. S.1156. VF, from weak die. **$90.00**

——L. Munatius Plancus, 40 B.C. Lituus & capis. Rv. Capis between fulmen & caduceus. S.1190. EF but scratched. **$125.00**

——32/31 B.C. Head of Antony, ARMENIA DEVICTA. Rv. Bust of Cleopatra. S.1210. VF **$350.00**

——Octavian, 39 B.C., str. in Gaul. Head of Octavian. Rv. Caduceus. S.1327a. EF **$125.00**

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Ancient Coins

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Wroth, Warwick, WESTERN AND PROVINCIAL BYZANTINE COINS, (Coins of the Vandals, Ostragoths and Lombards in the British Museum). Argonaut Inc., Chicago, 1966, $25.00. xciv plus 344 pp plus 42 plates.

This volume completes the reprinting of the British Museum Catalog covering the collection of Byzantine coins. The first two volumes which were reprinted last spring as a single book covered the coins which were issued by the official mints of the Byzantine Empire. This volume covers the coins which were struck by the successor kings of the West Roman Empire. It also includes the coinages of the empires of Nicaea, Trebizond and Thessalonica. One does not have a complete catalog of Byzantine coins until he possesses all three volumes.

The reasoning which incorporated the "provincial" mints and the western coins into this volume was that although Byzantine in style and fabric, these coins shared the characteristic of being non-official insofar as the capital at Constantinople was concerned. Though this logic is excellent, this third volume of the series actually comprises two major categories of coins which are separated both in space and time of issue.

The coinages of Thessalonica, Trebizond and Nicaea arose after 1204 when the Franks captured Constantinople. Though all three each had an emperor, each claiming to be the legitimate ruler of the Romans, logically only one, probably Nicaea, can be regarded as being the Constantinople government in exile as it were. Trebizond, however, survived the final destruction of Constantinople itself by a few years. Hence we have a group of coins, emanating from Byzantine states, and of considerable value to the historian.

The coinages of the Western kings are even more vital. In a sense these are not Byzantine at all since they are minted in the West under the authority of the Kings. They do resemble the Byzantine coins since it was these that the westerners deliberately imitated. Although Rome had fallen, the psychological unity of the empire remained intact. The Western kings felt that they ruled as viceroys of the emperor. It was his image which they placed on their coins. Consequently the study of the economic conditions and the remaining unity of the Mediterranean world in the 6th and 7th centuries must proceed almost entirely from the coins.

For the reasons cited above, the reprinting of this third volume is of inestimable importance to students of two different troubled periods in the world's history when in one case, the failure of literary sources makes us almost entirely dependent on the evidence of coins. For collectors, particularly those who are discovering the many excellent reasons for entering the Byzantine series, the book is a must since many of the coins which show up in miscellaneous groups of bronzes are of "provincial" origin and they will defy attribution without this most essential book.

The quality of the reprint is as excellent as that found in the first two volumes of the series. The plates are superlative, actually superior to those found in the original edition. After the experience with the recent reproduction of plates in some publishers' reprints, the present publisher has found itself an artist. JOHN E. HARTMANN

Akerman, John Yonge, NUMISMATIC ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, Argonaut Inc., Chicago, 1966, $3.00. 62 pp. illustrated.

This magazine has been very wary of the entire subject of coins and the Bible. It is easy to offend religious preconceptions on the one hand and even easier to draw unwarranted conclusions about which coins have a biblical context on the other. This reviewer feels that

such books as Florence Banks' *Coins of the Bible* draw many of these unwarranted conclusions and are the products of people who are not scholars and in a sense are fraudulently including and enhancing the value of coins which have little or no biblical relation by drawing some tenuous relationship and praying on the credulity of devout people.

There is however, a legitimate field of numismatic inquiry surrounding the coins which do have biblical connotations. Little, with the exception of the excellent work done on the essentially Jewish Corpus by Reifenberg, Kadman and others, has been done in recent years that can be regarded as scientific — that is, cautious conclusions reached after weighing of available evidence.

This reprint of Akerman's little book is therefore an excellent palliative to the present situation. Since there is nothing which has been done in New Testament numismatics since its appearance, it remains the most reliable little publication in its field and its reprinting will be of value to anyone who is interested in these coins.

Akerman, for example, concludes that the denarius of Tiberius is probably the famous "tribute" penny. He is aware, and allows his reader to also be aware that this is only a tentative conclusion and that contrary evidence can be marshalled. He does not speculate on the problem of the "Thirty Pieces of silver" probably because the hope of identifying any particular coin as having made up this group is beyond speculation.

Altogether, while somewhat unheralded in its recent appearance on the book market, this little book should be on the shelf of every coin collector. JOHN E. HARTMANN

THE GLORY THAT WAS GREECE — THE GRANDEUR THAT WAS ROME!

Hill, Sir George F., HISTORICAL GREEK COINS, Argonaut Inc., Chicago, 1966, $10.00. 181 pp plus 13 plates.

Marathon and Salamis, Demosthenes and Philip, Athens and Sparta, the empire of Alexander and the kingdoms founded by his generals, Syracuse, the city defended through the artifices of Archimedes — these and many more of the stirring pages of the history of ancient Greece are portrayed through the coins which today repose in the many collections throughout the world.

The intent of this book and its companion volume on Roman coins is to show how the coins illustrate the great historical events with which we are familiar. It is written with the collector in mind, but without condescension, and anyone who possesses a single Greek coin ought very much to also own this book. This reviewer warns though, that if the reader is afraid of being captured by the glories of ancient Greece he had best refrain. If, however, the reader is willing to return to the Athens of the philosophers then the road map for that journey is this book.

Hill was one of England's finest numismatists. There is little if anything that is not historically, archaeologically and numismatically sound. Little of his work has been superseded, though the reader is warned that the origin dates of Greek coins have been reduced by a hundred years following the analyses of the coins found at the Artemesion at Ephesus.

This then is the type of book for which collectors have been clamoring, something written in terms which they can understand, something which increases their knowledge of the coins and the place and time in which those coins arose. HAROLD SCHAEFFER

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Hill, Sir George F., HISTORICAL ROMAN COINS. Argonaut Inc., Chicago, 1966, $10.00. 191 pp plus 15 plates.

This book is not one which covers the imperial period — it is devoted to the Republic and to that last century of the life of Rome before the accession of Augustus. With what we hope is a reviving interest in the coins of the Roman Republic, this book will be most welcome.

Like the companion volume on Greek coins, this book is written primarily for the collector. It is the type of book for which collectors have been asking. It presents sound numismatic scholarship while illustrating the historical meaning of individual coins. It is an excellent basic text for any one who would study Roman coins and it is still the only text which exhaustively treats the "imperatorial" coinage in any detail.

Hill wrote before the great work of Mattingly and Robinson was published and new students of the Republic are warned that the dates used by Hill are now in error although the chronology of the coins has not been disturbed. It comes as a surprise that the publisher who has been so careful to update most of his previous reprints with introductions and annotated bibliographies did not in this case refer readers to the 2nd edition of Mattingly's ROMAN COINS; the section on the Republic.

The above criticism is not intended to detract from the great value of the work, both as a splendid introduction to collectors and as a treatment of the imperatorial coins. It has to become the first step for anyone intending to work with Roman coins. H. MAITLAND

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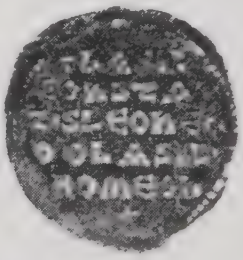

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(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

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The following books have been offered by ACCA members for loan under the conditions outlined in the August *Turtle*. Send your request (and a deposit of $10.00) to Miss Alyce Cresap, 33 East Bellevue Place, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Walker, Obadiah, *Greek and Roman History of Coins and Medals*, 1692.
History REI NUMMARIE Veteris, 800 pp., 1692.
Parmigiano, *Medals of Antiquity*, 1555.
Carolo, *Numismata Aunea*, 1705.
Agostini, *Discourse on medals of antiquity*, 1592.
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ACCA MEMBERS LECTURE AT M.I.T.

The Department of Education of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has announced a course, "Numismatics II," to be given at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, Mass., beginning on September 30th and consisting of eight meetings. Numismatist Maurice M. Gould is the instructor of this course; among the guest lecturers are Mr. James Ford Clapp, Jr., who will speak about ancient coins, and Dr. Clain-Stefanelli, Director of Numismatics at the Smithsonian Institute.

TRIPOLIS, 13/14 AD, AE 21. Dioscuri conj/Nike on prow. BMC 34. Rare. F 10.00
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THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

by D. F. Johnson

In response to a specific request submitted by Captain Radnich. I have prepared a brief resume of the two English speaking learned societies devoted to numismatics for all readers of the *Turtle* who may not be familiar with them.

The American Numismatic Society was founded in 1858. It has continuously since that time served as the focal point of numismatics in the United States. It maintains a substantial coin cabinet and possesses perhaps the most complete numismatic library in the world. It is, according to its constitution, devoted to the collection and maintenance of coins and medals, the investigation of all matters pertaining thereto and the popularization of the science of numismatics.

The Society publishes an infrequent series, *Museum Notes*, consisting of short articles pertaining to important acquisitions of the Society. Also published at irregular intervals is the famous series of *Numismatic Notes and Monographs* usually two to three such per year. These consist of longer works devoted to single subjects.

Perhaps the most important publication of the Society is the regular quarterly, *Numismatic Literature*. This magazine is an annotated bibliography of all material which has been published in the world, conveniently divided into appropriate sections covering various phases of numismatics.

All of the mentioned publications are received by associate members as they are published. Members also receive the annual report of the Society.

In addition to the above, the Society also publishes, at infrequent intervals, longer works under the heading of *Numismatic Studies*. These publications are available to associate members at reduced cost. Margaret Thompson's famous work on the New Style coins of Athens was published as part of *Numismatic Studies*.

Associate membership is available at the cost of $10.00 per year. Details of other forms of membership can be obtained from the executive secretary of the Society.

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